

**RESOURCES AGENCY RELEASES DRAFT REPORT OF THE
STATE INTERAGENCY MARINE MANAGED AREAS WORKGROUP**

**PUBLIC WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD
ALONG THE CALIFORNIA COAST AND AT THE STATE CAPITOL**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SACRAMENTO – Today Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols announced the first step in a major effort to improve the way California protects and manages its marine resources with the release of a draft marine managed areas (MMAs) report, *California's State Classification System for Marine Managed Areas*. The draft report was prepared in response to a Resources Agency analysis which found that the state's current array of MMAs (reserves, refuges, preserves, etc.) was confusing and in need of revision. "Our goal is to provide greater protection and improved management of the spectacular resources that exist along and offshore our coast," commented Nichols. "The public, industry, and our own resource managers have told us repeatedly that the current array of MMAs is often confusing, duplicative, and in need of an overhaul."

The current array of MMAs was created over the past 50 years by a complex and often uncoordinated mix of legislation, regulations, voter initiative processes, and guidelines. To address this issue, the Resources Agency convened the State Interagency Marine Managed Areas Workgroup to better define and evaluate state MMA classifications, and to develop a coordinated strategy for improvement. "Never before has the State convened all the agencies of jurisdiction at one time to craft such a strategy," stated Nichols. "We are suggesting the conversion of 18 different classifications into a more easily understandable system of 4-6 classifications that everyone can use to help protect and manage our ocean and coastal resources."

Available over the Internet (<http://ceres.ca.gov/cra/ocean>) and in print form, the draft report is the result of ten months' collaboration between several state agencies, the University of California, UC Sea Grant Cooperative Extension and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS). The public, private industry, non-profit organizations and other government agencies have the opportunity to participate in preparing the final report, which will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature, by participating in one of several workshops being held along the California coast and in the State Capitol.

Public workshops on the draft report are being held at the following dates and locations:

Wednesday, September 29 at 7 p.m.

South Central Coast Area

Planning Commission Hearing Room
County of Santa Barbara
123 East Anapamu, 1st Floor
Santa Barbara, CA
(805) 568-2000

Thursday, September 30 at 7 p.m.

South Coast Area

City Council Chambers
City of Newport Beach
3300 Newport Boulevard
Newport Beach, CA
(949) 644-3002

Tuesday, October 12 at 7 p.m.

San Francisco Bay Area

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Bay Model Visitor Center
2100 Bridgeway
Sausalito, CA
(415) 332-3871

Wednesday, October 13 at 7 p.m.

Central Coast Area

Hopkins Marine Station
Oceanside Boulevard
(next door to Monterey Bay Aquarium)
Pacific Grove, CA
(831) 655-6200

Thursday, October 14 at 7 p.m.

North Coast Area

City Hall
City of Trinidad
Trinidad, CA
(707) 677-0223

Tuesday, October 19 at 1:30 p.m.

State Capitol

Room 127
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA
(916) 324-0333

Comments and suggestions regarding the draft report are also welcome by electronic mail to MMAs@resources.ca.gov or through the U.S. mail to Ocean Resources Management Program, Resources Agency of California, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814. **All comments must be received no later than Tuesday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m.**

Copies of the draft report and executive summary are available over the Internet at <http://ceres.ca.gov/cra/ocean> and in print from the Resources Agency by sending a message to Melissa@resources.ca.gov or calling (916) 654-2506.